Amendments to the Specification:

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 8 with the following text:

Figure 1A shows the nucleotide sequence of a murine soluble RAGE-Fc fusion protein, SEQ ID NO: 1.

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 10 with the following text:

Figure 1B shows the amino acid sequence of a murine soluble RAGE-Fc fusion protein, SEQ ID NO: 2.

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 12 with the following text:

Figure 2A shows the nucleotide sequences of a murine soluble TNFRII, SEQ ID NO: 3.

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 13 with the following text:

Figure 2B shows the amino acid sequences of a murine soluble TNFRII, SEQ ID NO: 4.

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 14 with the following text:

Figure 3A shows an amino acid sequence of a human RAGE fused to the CH2, CH3 and hinge region of a mutated IgG1 heavy chain, SEQ ID NO: 5.

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 16 with the following text:

Figure 3B shows the nucleotide sequence of a human RAGE fused to the CH2, CH3 and hinge region of a mutated IgG1 heavy chain, SEQ ID NO: 6.

- On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 24 with the following text:

Figure 7 shows the amino acid sequence for human RAGE, SEQ ID NO: 7.

➢ On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting at line 25 with the following text:

Figure 8 shows the nucleic acid sequence for human RAGE, SEQ ID NO: 8.

➢ On page 10, please replace the paragraph starting at line 1 with the following text:

Figure 10 shows sequence analysis of human RAGE, SEQ ID NO: 9. Analysis of human RAGE-Fc showed: 1) the N-terminal residue is glutamine (Q) which has cyclicized to form pyroglutamic acid; and 2) an N-linked modification on asparagine (N) at position two of the mature peptide.

➢ On page 69, please replace the paragraph starting at line 1 with the following text:

Anti-sense murine RAGE and Sense murine RAGE riboprobes were produced by generating 2 independent PCR products from the corresponding transcripts. The oligonucleotides 5'-GACTGATAAT ACGACTCACT ATAGGGCGAA TGCCAGCGGG GACAGCAGCTAGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: ~~29~~10) and 5'-AGAGGCAGGA TCCACAATTT CTGGCTTCCC AGGAAT-3' (SEQ ID NO: ~~30~~11) were used to generate a murine RAGE sense probe and 5'-GACTGATAAT ACGACTCACT ATAGGGCGAA GAGGCAGGAT CCACAATTTC TGGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO: ~~31~~12) and 5'-ATGCCAGCGG GGACAGCAGC TAGAGCCTGG GTGCTGGTT-3' (SEQ ID NO: ~~32~~13) were used to generate a murine RAGE antisense probe.

➢ On page 71, please replace the paragraph starting at line 5 with the following text:

The murine RAGE was isolated from paws of DBA/1 mice with collagen induced arthritis by PCR. The coding region from the ATG at 1 to 1029 of the murine RAGE was fused to a murine IgG2a mutated Fc. The Adoril-1 mRAGE_Fc was derived by cloning the mRAGE-IG2a_Fc sequences (SEQ ID NO: ~~37~~1 and encoded protein has SEQ ID NO:

~~38~~ 2; see also Fig. 1) into *EcoRI* and *NotI* digested adenovirus vector Adori 1-2. The extracellular domain from 1-774 of the murine TNFRII was isolated from CIA diseased paws from DBA/1 mice was isolated using PCR and fused to a murine IgG2a mutated Fc. The cDNA containing the extracelular portion of mouse TNFRII fused to murine IgG2a mutated Fc (SEQ ID NO: ~~39~~ 3 and encoded protein has SEQ ID NO: ~~40~~ 4; see also Fig. 2) was cloned into the EcoR1 and Not1 of Adoril-2 and the resulting plasmid was called Adoril-2 msolTNFRII_Fc. The Adori 1-1 empty vector does not contain an insert. All constructs were verified by extensive restriction digestion analysis and sequencing of the cDNA inserts within the plasmids. Expression of all the cDNAs are driven from cytomegalovirus (CMV) immediate early promoter and enhancer.